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P4P needs \$700k to move ahead with Lakeview Motel project

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's going to take something special to save the 15-unit affordable housing project Places for People is hoping to establish at the Lakeview Motel in Haliburton.

The organization worked quickly on developing a proposal for the site, after the federal government announced back in November that it would be supplying \$1 billion in funding under the Rapid Housing Initiative, in an attempt to bolster affordable housing options nationwide. Of that amount, \$500 million was made available solely to projects within significant urban areas, with a further \$500 million set aside for other proposals, which included both urban and rural projects.

The idea, says Fay Martin of Places for People [P4P], was for money to be distributed to proposals that were essentially "ready to go," with the government mandating that any project funded under the stream must be completed by March 2022.

Despite meeting the government's criteria and hitting every strenuous deadline, P4P learned earlier this month that its \$2.4 million application was not successful at this time.

That had nothing at all to do with the

see DEMAND page 14



Sitting in the sun

The warm spell last week, which saw the thermometer get into double-digits, had people at the park like this young family of three trying out the teeter-totters on Tuesday, March 23 at Head Lake Park in Haliburton. /DARREN LUM Staff

HHHS responds to vaccination clinic questions from public

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

An emailed response from Haliburton Highlands Health Services president and CEO Carolyn Plummer is helping shed light on decisions related to vaccination roll out across Haliburton County.

Several readers contacted the *Echo*

about vaccination clinics underway in the county, specifically questioning the eligibility of vaccine recipients such as retail employees, who were vaccinated at a healthcare worker vaccination clinic held at the Pinestone Resort held on March 17 and 18.

Plummer said essential workers from the next priority level group were selected to ensure all the vaccines provided were

used based on guidance at the time.

"These were not publicly announced by HHHS, as they were not intended to be public vaccination clinics. Based on guidance in place at the time, after a concerted outreach effort to offer vaccines to all Phase 1 'highest' and 'very high' priority health care workers and first responders, and in our attempt to ensure all the

see MOH page 5

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Leopoldina Dobrzensky remembered as steward of land and local history

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A decade or so ago, Leopoldina Dobrzensky told Julia Robertson that she had found a timber signed by Robertson's grandmother in her farmhouse. The farmhouse Dobrzensky lived in had belonged to the Ferguson family, and there, faintly on the timber was written, "Aggie Ferguson, Haliburton." Ferguson had died in 1975 in her 80s. When the house was remodelled more recently, Dobrzensky ensured the history in that timber was preserved.

"She knew that the farm belonged to my grandparents," said Robertson. "That piece of timber was coming out, and she gave it to me. She made sure that the people who were renovating the house, that that came back to us. It's even got the old nails in it. It's really something."

The story is one that those who have shared even a single conversation with Dobrzensky will immediately recognize as reflecting her passion for making connections, sharing knowledge and safeguarding treasured pieces of local heritage.

On March 18, Leopoldina Dobrzensky-Dobrzencicz, a steward of the land and of this community's history, died at the age of 94.

Born in 1926 to the Lobkowicz family, one of Europe's oldest, most illustrious families in what was then Czechoslovakia, Dobrzensky's family, raised alongside three sisters by her mother after her father's passing, survived the brutality of the German occupation of their country during the Second World War, only to then face the Soviet Union and a country under Communist rule. Dobrzensky, by that time married to her husband Jenda, with two kids, and five months pregnant, fled the country hidden with her family in a box that had been slashed with an ax in several places to create breathing holes and covered with gravel, as refugees with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

"Like sardines, Jenda, the two children and I crouched inside, my big tummy was directly on the floor," wrote Dobrzensky in her memoir. "We covered the sleeping children's mouths with our hands, hoping that they would not start to cry."

It was raining heavily when the truck started on its journey over the rough roads, Dobrzensky wrote.

"The border guards were likely reluctant to venture outside and stayed in the office, however, at one point we heard someone shouting, 'stop!'," read the memoirs. "To which our driver replied, 'C'mon, Tony, you know that all I carry is gravel, and this is my last trip.' Petrified, we held our breath. Luckily the children were still asleep and the truck drove on. I cannot remember ever having prayed so hard."

Eventually the family got to a point where they had to walk to the rest of the way to the Austrian border, with Dobrzensky saying she tried to remain calm as they moved, to help keep her unborn child safe.

"Suddenly the sky cleared and the sun came out," she said. "On a summer evening its last rays fell on a group of grazing deer. It was such a peaceful sight that my shallow breathing stopped, and I was no longer afraid."

The family lived in a refugee camp that summer, and



Leopoldina Dobrzensky pictured at the opening ceremony of the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve last October. /DARREN LUM Staff

then with family in Normandy before applying for refugee status in a few different places – the response from Canada came first, and so they immigrated here.

"For her to be so deeply rooted to Czechoslovakia's past, to her family life, to her home, to all of that," said Martha Perkins, former editor of the *Haliburton Echo* and friend of the Dobrzensky family. "To pack up everything, tied in a wagon, to escape the Soviets, come to Canada – with nothing. And what she was able to do, her way of dealing with it was to say, the past is past. I can't remove it from me, but I cannot live in the past. This is the life that I have today. My family is safe, my family is alive, that's what matters, and so we are going to make the best of Canada."

And so, Dobrzensky, Jenda and their three children – two more children would be born in Canada – settled into a new life in the Toronto area in 1951.

"One of the things that I deeply admired about her was the way she was able to make the transition," said Perkins, who said that Dobrzensky believed her family's background meant she always had a strong tie to her family's past, a sense of history and to be a steward of that from one generation to the next.

"So she was imbued by a sense of family and what it meant," said Perkins. "But not in an ostentatious way ... it was the sense of responsibility to the past."

Jenda and Leopoldina – or John and Leo as they were referred to locally – visited friends in Haliburton, and Jenda – who didn't like the city – suggested they stay.

"My husband liked it so much, he said, 'oh my God, it's just like at home,'" said Dobrzensky in a video made by Sticks and Stones Productions for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.

The pair, along with their youngest children, visited an available home – the farmhouse in which Robertson's grandmother signed the timber – that at that point required a lot of work.

"Well, that house was where the porcupines lived, and where the snowmobilers would go through the doors, you know, the front and back doors because the doors were no longer there," said Dobrzensky in the video. "We could see it was a solid place. The children begged us to get it."

And so in January 1974, the Dobrzenskys became Haliburton County residents for what she said were the "10 happiest years of our married life," and fell in love with the land, which was so familiar to what they remembered of the Czechoslovakian Highlands.

"The Highlands are very similar, everywhere," Dobrzensky said. "It's usually land that is not very good, for farming anyway, a lot of rocks and so on. You have to earn a living, and it's hard earning a living so the people are very similar, I would say."

Though Dobrzensky embraced life here, appreciating the area through the seasons and the wildlife, it was the people who she quickly became most interested in, won-

dering about the history of farmlands and early settlers.

"Leo had much admiration and respect for the pioneer families of Haliburton and their ability to overcome hardships and survive in spite of the harsh environment they faced," said Steve Hill, curator at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. "She felt that their struggles and successes should be written down, praised, and never forgotten."

Neighbours told her there was no recorded history here, and that she'd have to do some research if she wanted to know more about it. When she called the museum and found at that time there was nothing on file for the Dugan family ["Mr. Dugan was on council for 23 years!" she responded], she turned her frustration to action.

"That got me so mad, that I said, 'OK, I'm going to do it,'" she said.

Dobrzensky began doing the work, becoming a regular at the registry office and then making connections between land, tax and death records in order to document history.

The result of those efforts was published in 1986, as the book *Fragments of a dream: Pioneering in Dysart Township and Haliburton Village*.

"She showed her connection with the past by being curious," said Perkins. "Well, what's the history here? What's the history of my property? And then going and writing *Fragments of a dream* because of just that curiosity and wanting to know about the past."

At the book signing, Dobrzensky said she was near tears when it appeared nobody had come, when suddenly the door opened and a group of about 30 people – descendants of the pioneering families – arrived to celebrate the book.

"And there was our neighbour, Mr. Roberts, who came up to me and said, 'thank you, you have given us back pride in our ancestry,'" said Dobrzensky. "And when he said that, that was wonderful."

"What she did in part is she gave legitimacy to Haliburton's history," said Perkins. "On one hand, you can say Haliburton's history is not illustrious, it was log cabins and trying to eke out a living. But she knew there was history in that. She knew that they were people, real people, who established Haliburton and made a life there. Her point was, we have to realize that life can be small and be big. Life can be this tiny village, but there's importance in its history, and let's not just say that because it's not as long, it's more recent, it is about people struggling to survive in very tough conditions ... she gave legitimacy to that."

Dobrzensky published a second book, *They worked and prayed together: Italians in Haliburton County*, in 1988, about the Italian immigrants who came to the area.

"They were like her," said Robertson. "They came from their countries, with nothing, to live here."

The books were well-received and are still used as reference materials today.

"It always flattered her that various local history authors would confer with her for advice and insight before embarking on their own works, and she was always happy to help encourage them," said Hill.

Though recording history was important to Dobrzensky, so too was advocacy to make the present and future better.

"She didn't just live in the past," said Robertson, who sits on the executive of the Haliburton County Historical Society. "She lived in the future. She looked and saw what we need to progress here. She didn't just live in the past – she saw things that needed to be done for the future."

see COMMUNITY page 3





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Community mourns loss of a true 'life force' and 'fountain of information'

from page 2

Paul and Sharon Morissette were long-time friends of Leo through their shared interest in history and as part of the congregation of St. Anthony of Padua Mission Church. Like many others, they described her as being gracious, distinguished but humble, and caring.

"She was interested in everything," said Paul. "Virtually everything. There wasn't anything she wasn't interested in ... She would talk about anything. Local events, she loved local history and was deeply immersed in everything that happened in Haliburton County and the village of Dysart, because she'd done the history, but she knew all the players ... What she would do is take that to the provincial level, the federal level, and then the international level. She always saw the big picture. So she was highly, highly intelligent."

"She said her family always answered her questions because it was never the first answer that satisfied her," said Sharon. "She always came back, she said they were always patient. Obviously she had a very bright mind, and they always fed that mind."

Dobrzensky spoke at least six languages, well.

"She was really intelligent, but that really went with being inquisitive," said Paul. "She would challenge. She would challenge authority and ask why. Why is this, why is that, what can be done about it?"

Dobrzensky learned how to use technology to keep herself connected even into her 90s, and used it to e-mail politicians and leaders at every level.

"Her approach was so far ahead of its time in terms of voicing her strong opinion and viewpoints," said Paul. "Her letters would be 1,000, 2,000 words in length.

She was just that kind of person."

Sharon said Dobrzensky was a devout Catholic, a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada since 1952, and cared immensely for those in challenging situations, as well as those who would cross her path.

"She said prayers for many, many people every night," said Sharon. "And her conversations were always about you, not about her ... She was always, always giving back."

But Dobrzensky's life itself was filled with, as noted in her obituary, "tremendous upheaval." Besides the struggle of her early days, the loss of her beloved father at a young age, and life during war-time, she experienced the loss of her husband as well as two children.

"So a big part of her life story is a lot of tragedy," said Paul.

"But every adversity she had made her stronger," added Sharon.

"Leo's life wasn't always easy and she suffered many hardships, from the death of a son and daughter to the upheaval of fleeing Czechoslovakia after the war when she and her young family came to Canada as refugees," said Sheila Ziman, a friend who described Dobrzensky as a role model. "But Leo was resilient and had a dignity and grace that I will always remember. At 94, she still lived in her own home and never left it without being impeccably dressed, greeting the world with curiosity, compassion and a keen intelligence."

Outgoing, likeable, and someone who saw the good in everyone around her made Dobrzensky a beloved part of the community, known for that impeccable and iconic sense of style – even in her own living room – and also her love of the sweets table at community functions.

"It is a great loss for the community that

she adopted, and the community adopted her as well," said Paul. "Everybody knows Leo in some way. She went to the functions. She was involved."

Dobrzensky was a founding member of Haliburton County Historical Society, a friendly visitor at Extencicare – she visited with Ethel Curry for many years – a palliative care helper, and spoke at high school classes and for local groups.

She appreciated art, loved to draw, and once joked she was a "mediocre student" in a painting and picture framing course at the then-Haliburton School of the Arts summer school.

"She was like a renaissance woman in the sense of her love of nature and art and music and history and politics," said Paul. "A life force. And the world's better off with her in it and the impact she had."

"Every day was not wasted with her," said Sharon. "And that was her message. Don't waste your life. Make it count for some reason, every day."

In 2018, Dobrzensky and her daughter Margaret donated a 500-acre property and 100-acre conservation easement to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, naming it Barnum Creek Nature Reserve for a key feature of the land.

"We came to Canada as refugees in 1951 and this country has given us so much," said Dobrzensky in the land trust video. "We were able to raise five children here, so I think it's only natural that you would want to give something back to the community."

"During the opening ceremonies on October 15, 2020, Leo extolled people to come out and walk the property to get a dose of Vitamin N as scientists had recently discovered this important new vitamin and there was no better place to get a dose of Vitamin Nature than Barnum Creek Nature Reserve," said Ziman,

who is a HHLT board member. The property has proven to be instantly popular, embraced and appreciated greatly by the community.

Dobrzensky said it was her great hope that the people in Haliburton in the future will be able to enjoy the space, finding peace in nature when they need it and can't find it elsewhere.

"The last line in my book is, people come and go but the land is forever," she said in the land trust video.

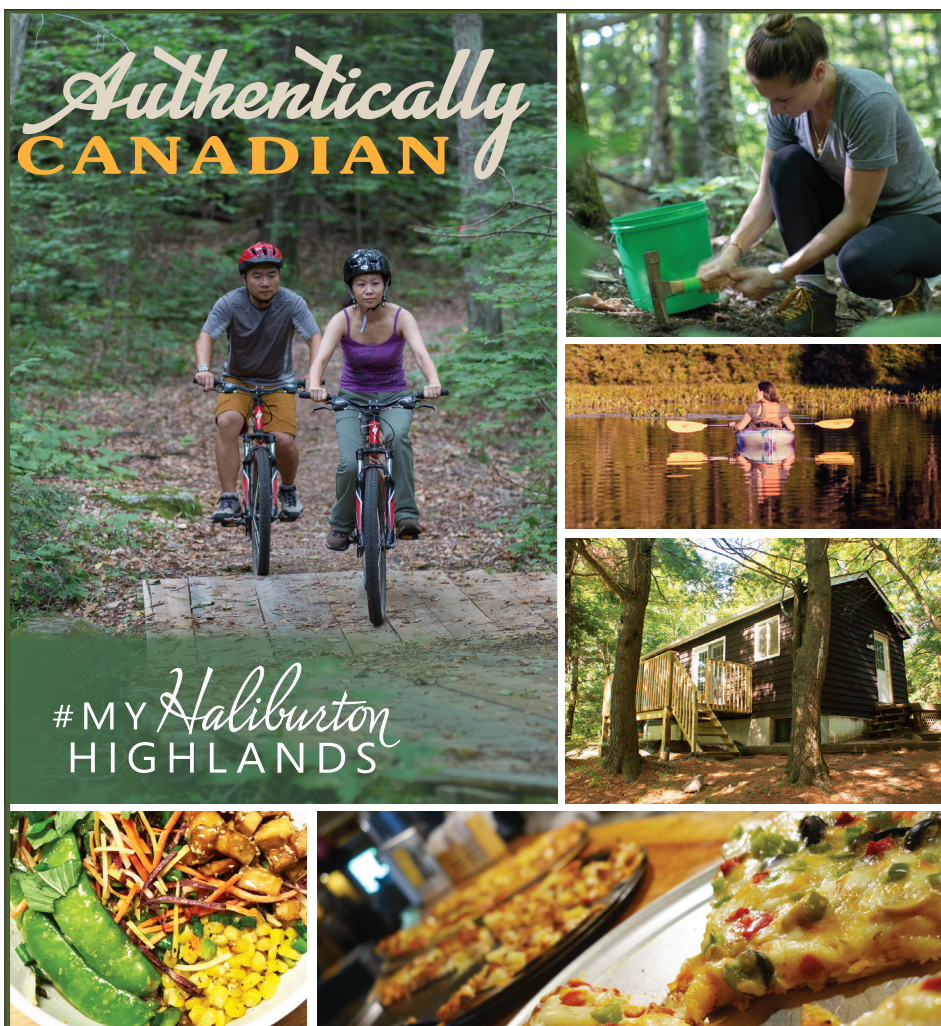
As the end of her life drew near, Dobrzensky said she expected she wouldn't live to see the end of the year.

"Her whole sense of being was, this is just part of life," said Paul. "Not sad, it was just part of life. We all did expect her to live forever, because she was so involved in everything right up until the end, which is fantastic."

Her loss has been felt by individuals and groups within the community, and also by friends and family throughout the world, all who have learned much from Dobrzensky and her gentle, inquisitive conversations in which she often characteristically asked the engaged partner, "Did you know...?" before sharing an insightful piece of wisdom or historical lore that she had come across in her passion for knowledge and understanding.

"We have nobody now to call," said Robertson, of the loss to the local Historical Society and the community as a whole. "She was a fountain of information. If you needed to know something, you could call Leo, and if she didn't know it, she'd find out and tell you how to get it. We've just lost a source of information."

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust has suggested that those wishing to honour Leopoldina Dobrzensky's memory can do so "by getting outside and soaking in the beauty of nature."



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Positive reaction to big-spending budget

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The provincial budget tabled by the Ford government last week contains \$186 billion in spending and years of planned deficits as the province seeks to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Titled *Ontario Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy*, the budget contains billions in assistance and is receiving largely positive responses from a number of organizations.

"Ontario's 2021 budget means supports for the hardest-hit sectors and communities, including right here in the Haliburton Highlands – much needed aid for women who have been deeply impacted by the pandemic, and initiatives that will create a strong economic rebound related to tourism, training, and vital infrastructure such as broadband," Andrea Strano, president of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement.

Recognizing that the pandemic has disproportionately affected women, racialized communities, Indigenous people and those with disabilities, the budget calls for the creation of a task force on inclusive economic growth. It also includes a temporary job retraining tax credit, for those who've been left underemployed or unemployed and are retraining for a different job.

On the tourism front, the budget expands the Ontario Small Business Support Grant to include hotels, hunting and fishing camps, travel agencies and other tourism-related businesses that did not qualify for eligibility under the initial program. The \$100-million Ontario Tourism and Hospitality Small Business Support Grant program will provide one-time funding of \$10,000 to \$20,000 for hospitality-related businesses that didn't initially qualify.

The Ontario Tourism Recovery Program is a \$100-million initiative for established tourism businesses, designed to help them with costs related to restructuring, safe reopening, new marketing directions and partnership development amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The budget also includes a local tourism tax credit, designed to encourage Ontarians to check out Ontario destinations when public health guidelines indicate it is safe to do so.

A \$20-million 2021 Reconnect Festival and Event Program is designed to assist organizations creating COVID-19-responsible events.

The budget contains \$2.8 billion in spending on broadband projects, welcome news to the board of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, owned by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. EORN recently announced that Rogers Communications was the winning bidder on its cell gap project, a \$300-million undertaking that will upgrade 300 communications towers in eastern Ontario, and construct 300 new ones. The province contributed \$71 million to that project, and EORN is now looking to the provincial and

federal governments for \$200 million each for its Gig project, which would bring Gig internet, with its incredibly fast speeds, to the region. It's estimated that project will cost between \$1.2 billion and \$1.6 billion.

"Reliable broadband will be key to the economic recovery from COVID-19 for rural communities," said Murray Jones, warden of the County of Peterborough and chairman of the EORN board in a release, in response to the budget. "The government's commitment today has the potential to finally bridge the digital divide and give people across Ontario the critical connectivity we need to succeed and thrive."

"The Gig project is a comprehensive solution to fix broadband for a generation," Jones added. "We look forward to learning more details about the funding in today's budget and we remain hopeful that it will mean positive news for the Gig project."

Nearly \$7 billion is budgeted for spending directly related to the pandemic, including \$1 billion for vaccines, \$1.8 billion in COVID-19 relief funding for hospitals to help care for patients and deal with surgical backlogs, and \$650 million in relief funding for long-term care homes.

For families with children, a one-time COVID-19 child benefit payment will double from \$200 per child in previous rounds of funding to \$400 per child and \$500 per child for children with disabilities. There is also increased funding to assist lower- and mid-income families with childcare costs.

"Our government continues to protect people by investing in our health care system, supporting the vaccine rollout plan, and fixing long-term care," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott said in a release. "Making important investments in ways that will directly impact families, jobs, and small businesses is how we will get the province back on track to economic recovery and defeat the COVID-19 virus."

One major criticism of the budget is that it does not include legislation for paid sick leave, something that's been called for by numerous advocacy groups and the Opposition NDP amid the continuing COVID-19 crisis.

Ontario ran a \$38.5-billion deficit in 2020, and the deficit for the 2021/22 fiscal year is expected to be approximately \$33 billion. Prior to the pandemic, the Ford government had aimed to get back to balanced budgets by 2023, but given the wide-reaching ramifications of the health crisis, it's expected it will be at least the 2029/30 fiscal year before that's a possibility. The province will have half a trillion dollars in debt by 2024.

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Firefighters brought up to speed with new ice water training

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Firefighters from Dysart et al and Highlands East are now better equipped for ice and water rescues after participating in a day-long training event on March 20.

In what was a collaborative approach between local departments, four firefighters from Highlands East and six from Dysart et al were put through their paces by members of the Algonquin Highlands Fire Department, who taught the course. The session took place on Head Lake and saw firefighters taught how to safely conduct rescues on frozen lakes.

Dysart fire chief Mike Iles said it had been quite some time since his department had been trained in ice water res-



Firefighters from Dysart et al and Highlands East participated in an ice water rescue training session on Head Lake on March 20. /Submitted photo

cue. "This course was finally approved, so we were excited to get out there. We had a good opportunity here to get one course

in before the ice melted," Iles said. "It's all very unique training specific to ice water rescue, and was very worthwhile."

Iles noted the Dysart department has provided an ice rescue service for several years. He said he expects his department to participate in additional training sessions in the fall, once the ice in the lake is stable again.

George Sharp, a firefighter with the Algonquin Highlands department, instructed the course. He said the participants spent a full day studying and training, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The session combined both theory and practical work – with the firefighters spending time studying the different skills, techniques and procedures before heading out onto Head Lake.

MOH willing to forgive immunization 'error' at Pinestone

from page 1

vaccines provided to HHHS were used in the community, some doses were offered to the next priority level groups [e.g., essential workers in the community such as grocery store workers, bank staff, etc.]. HHHS was subsequently asked to hold off on this approach, until the priority sequencing could be applied similarly across the entire public health region, as some communities had not yet completed Phase 1," she wrote. "Similar to other jurisdictions, due to the novelty of vaccination clinics of this nature, all parties are learning and improving processes as we proceed in order to ensure that all priority populations have access in prior-

ity sequence as directed by the Ministry of Health, and as we respond to ongoing changes and updates to provincial guidance."

During a media scrum held virtually on March 24, the acting local medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill admitted an error was made in this situation, but that it was done with the intention of helping and should be forgiven.

"We have been told by the province to get vaccines into arms as fast as you possibly can. So sometimes there will be miscommunication. Sometimes there will be misinterpretation of who they can call in," he said.

Administering the vaccinations is complicated when it comes to determining

who is eligible, as far as phases and the different priority groups, he added. He referenced "essential" workers such as bank tellers and a grocery staff, who must go to work are included early in phase two, but not phase one.

He characterized this mistake causing a "bit of a kerfuffle."

"Everybody wants the vaccine as soon as they can and I think people are kind of overly sensitive about what might be called queue jumping," he said. "I can honestly tell you I'm not aware of any situation in which this was done intentionally and I'm completely willing to forgive people and to say ... let's just get on with more immunizations rather than fuss and worry about it. As I said before,

everybody is headed to get a vaccine if they want it and it will only be a matter of a few weeks. Let's just say, chalk it up to experience and get on with the next immunization. That's my approach to it," he said.

Besides the vaccine clinic at the Pinestone, there was also a healthcare worker vaccination clinic held on March 6 at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, which is in addition to the long-term care home vaccination clinics. So far HHHS has held several clinics offering the vaccines to residents and essential caregivers, who work at the Hyland Crest and Highland Wood; HHHS staff and other local health care workers, and first responders such as paramedics and firefighters.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Bubbling into Easter and Passover

WHY, IF it isn't a whole year since everyone in Lake Whaddaya-thinkImean has been social distancing due to COVID, don'tcha know. And now with Easter and Passover upon us, what are families and friends supposed to do? Now you know ol' Maybelle's going to put my two and-half cents into this, so here goes ...

#1 Keep bubbling. Yep. Even if you got one or two of your COVID vaccine shots, you still need to be vigilant. Bubble bubble, no un-mask-ing, no trouble.

#2: Hug the holiday like a good friend who you miss being able to hug in person. That's right. Make your home festive. Dig

out your Easter decorations or Passover plates and storybooks ... make a special holiday meal, even if it's just for one or two.

#3 Dye Easter eggs. If you don't want to use real eggs, then cut some out of paper and decorate them. Fun for the kids and the kid inside you. That's right. Cut and weave some coloured paper together and hang it like streamers from your drapes or blinds. Be creative. Have fun.

#4 Make Easter or Passover baskets. Don't have a basket? Grab a cardboard box and go to town covering it with coloured paper, newspaper, or paint, or crayon. Cut strips of newspaper and fill 'er up. Then place bunny cookies or chocolates inside, or whatever else you want for that matter...think outside of the bunny box.

#5 Give the Easter box to a friend or neighbour who needs cheering up, with a sweet message. Just leave it on their doorstep. What a wonderful surprise. "Somebody cares about me?" You bet they do!

#6 Zoom, Skype, Whatsapp, or Facetime with your friends and family. Maybe arrange to eat dinner

together virtually. Share thoughts and feelings about the holiday... make it meaningful AND fun.

#7 Easter egg hunt, anyone? If you're bubbling with family, be they grownups or little ones, hide some eggs in the house and declare: "The hunt is on!" Or, have an egg-in-a-spoon race. Ol' Maybelle will never forget the fun I had competing with my pet bear, Bogart. Have you ever tried it? You do it with a RAW egg. You amp up the possibility of spill and mess, but that's half the fun. Just put an egg in the bowl part of a spoon, the handle part between your teeth and walk as fast as you can, balancing it as you compete with another player.

I can tell you sure as my name is Maybelle, what my good friends, Vilma Yuccch, Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom (her significant smother), Beanpole Starkman, Twindle Mumbly, Sybil Beaucannon Hughes and I are going to do on Easter. Oh, and, of course, Bogart. We're going to Zoom together during dinner. We're dressing up

... of course we'll only see the top half of what we're wearing, so I'm going to get all dolled up from the waist up, and wear nice cozy jammie bottoms and my big furry flip flops, don'cha know. Bogart's going to wear the Easter bow-tie I made for him (covered with eggs and bunnies). We're all going to say something special about the holiday...you know share our thoughts and feelings...then savour our meals, virtually together...share a few jokes, wish each other well, burp a couple of times for good measure and be grateful for seeing each other at this special time of year.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. Jerelyn's books, "Ves-sie Flamingo Outshining the Moon," and "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You" are available at amazon.com

Maybelle's



Fireside stories



Spring splash

by Darren Lum

Eating fresh

WE ARE all in a relationship with the earth. It feeds us, it feels us and it is our home.

In the practice of yoga we acknowledge that, in every pose, we are moving with earth. We push into it, we balance onto it, we sink into it and we rise up from it.

As I walked in our yard this morning I could see our little garlic shoots starting to poke up. It is so exciting. In our house we love what we eat from our gardens. Garlic (lots of garlic), kale, swiss chard, tomatoes, lettuce, zucchinis, peas, cucumbers, etc. We just can't get enough of it once it is ready to eat. There is nothing like fresh food on your plate every evening. We also grow flowers.

At this time of year I often contemplate what I give back to the earth. There must be a balance between giving and receiving. We are composters in our family and we have lots of conversations about it. The topic comes up again and again. We are from a long line of gardeners and farmers who never thought twice about composting - they knew their food relied on having it to feed their soil. The soil in our gardens is sandy and has needed a lot of help over the years. It is evolving beautifully.

The compost conversations that we have are driven by all three of us. As a young kid my daughter was asked to take the compost out regularly, which she did. As she got older, and wiser, she established a new schedule where she assigned each of us a season. Instead of daily

discussions of who took it out, we each got a season. Funny thing is that the older she got it never seemed to be her season!

I am happy to report that now she shares a house with four other girls in Kingston and the city has a composting program in place that they are required to use. Madeline manages their compost. I am happy that she learned that she has to be a good citizen and help look after the earth!

My comments about the compost are often related to the compost bucket. I feel like I am the only one who ever cleans it out. It gets emptied and there are always coffee grounds, carrot peels and

other veggies hanging on as the pot comes back to the kitchen. Does anyone but me ever clean that bucket? I crab on about it, but secretly I don't mind. I know it is a small way that I contribute to our gardens and the good food I get to eat.

My husband never complains about the compost. He just loves tending it and his stories are about

how much we have and which beds will get it. We have five containers that he rotates and uses. He has moved on from skiing and snowshoeing and is contemplating his garden and what will grow where.

My mother is moving up to live with us and she has gardened her whole life. She would be lost without compost and a place to put it.

There are lots of great resources on line if you want to get started! Let the fresh local eating season begin!

Tales from
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points of view

Upping my grandpa game

ON MARCH 24, I received fantastic news from Nunavut. My oldest daughter, Jennifer, gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby girl named Casey, who is the sibling of my grandson Hudson.

Both Hudson and I couldn't be happier. We both wanted the baby to be a girl. Hudson went so far as to suggest, if it wasn't, we should take it back. I told him to make sure his mom kept the receipt, because that's what grandfather's do.

As Hudson's baby sister, Casey immediately qualified for granddaughter status – and, I am happy to report, she was awarded this the second we heard the news.

Having grandchildren is the greatest thing in the world. And not because you can play with them and then send them home at the end of the day either. That would be a problem for me, since they live in Pond Inlet which is at the northernmost tip of Baffin Island.

No, grandchildren are great because, for a while at least, they are gullible and willing to believe almost anything.

Sadly, their remote location means we don't see each other all that much, but we do Skype.

This used to be easy until my grandson hit the ripe old age of four. Interestingly enough, at that age, they have the attention span of a four-year-old – which is something I thought you only got when you reached your mid-50s.

This means Skype chats between my grandson and me are now fairly brief unless I can deliver an entertaining story, which is harder than you think when you are competing against



steve
galea

Loon Tales

re-runs of that darn *Paw Patrol*.

For his part, Hudson generally tells me about his latest macaroni art or how he finger-painted on his mother's wall, so it's fairly hard to compete against.

In the past, stories about my pet dinosaur worked fairly well, but then Hudson started demanding visual proof and since Jenn refused to wear the velociraptor suit I made, Hudson quickly became skeptical.

I blame this on our educational system. Back in my day, before all that fancy book learning, a kid just took his grandpa's word.

Lucky for me, right now, at less than a week old, Casey is a still grandpa's intellectual equal. This means she too has no problem sitting still in front of the camera and cooing at something she does not fully understand. But as my experience with Hudson has shown me, this will not last for long.

Pretty soon, Casey will need a better grade of entertainment too.

This means I am going to have to up my grandfathering game and maybe work towards higher production values and better story lines. This is why I'm already researching our local bylaws regarding car explosions, pyrotechnics and stunt driving, which are just a few of the things sorely lacking in any *Paw Patrol* episode – at least in seasons one through three.

Hopefully, by the time Casey is four, I will be ready to dazzle her with an ongoing story line that will make *Paw Patrol* look like a documentary about dryer lint. That way, Casey and I will get to know each other the way a grandpa and his grandchild should, through gross exaggerations and totally unbelievable stories.

I just hope all of our local ordinances allow me to produce each Skype call for maximum entertainment value so I can capture the precarious attention span of a four-year-old.

Because, between you and me, there's no way Jenn is ever putting on that velociraptor suit.



pic of the past

An old postcard showcasing Drag River on the east end of Haliburton. /Submitted by Doreen Rae

letters to the editor

I'll choose the highway

To the Editor,

I am an 89-year-old male, receiving on a regular basis assistance from personal support workers. Recently one of the workers told me she would not be receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. To say I was shocked would be putting it mildly.

Her reason – she felt all her allergies would be affected. I asked “have you talked to your doctor?” Her answer was “no, I haven't.”

I cannot believe that someone dealing on a regular basis with a large number of very vulnerable seniors, i.e. those of us in the over 80 age group, not to mention people with a variety of medical conditions that leaves them very vulnerable to COVID-19, would not get a vaccination. Her company told me that they would be following all safety protocols, masks, clothing etc. I would assume that given after vaccinations all safety pro-

ocols would still be adhered to.

How could this company guarantee that every worker will adhere strictly to all safety protocols?

They also told me that this was a human rights issue and they cannot force workers to be vaccinated against their will. What about the rights of the client to be served in the very safest possible way?

The person I spoke to, said it was my right to deny the worker access to my home, however going forward they possibly could not provide me with service if I chose to deny this worker entry to my home.

This sounded somewhat like a threat. Our way or the highway. I do believe I will choose the highway.

Chuck Viner
Gooderham

A job well done

To the Editor,

I would like to congratulate the Haliburton Family Medical Centre for their excellent organization of the COVID-19 vaccination clinic held last week for those of us over 80. There were so many cheerful faces, from the door man on up through the clinic. It went like clockwork.

Doctors, nurses, paramedics, volunteers, secre-

taries, receptionists all encouraging and directing. I was in and out in 24 minutes – just follow the arrows and you are on your way home.

How lucky we are when you see the long line ups of old folks in the city – again, thank you.

Joan Cameron
Haliburton

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County								
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	0	9	0	65	64	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	12	43	0	579	525	30	42	13
Northumberland	16	65	0	494	466	17	12	0
Total***	28	124	0	1,138	1,055	50	55	13

Haliburton County back to no current confirmed cases

In Monday's data upload from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, Haliburton County had no new cases of COVID-19 being reported, and current high risk contacts had decreased from double digits to nine. For more info visit www.hkpr.on.ca/. Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

Gemmill talks booking vaccines, organized sports and the four-month delay

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held March 24 with Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health.

Cases decreasing again locally

Looking at the epidemiological report, Gemmill said there had been about 13 cases per 100,000 population across the local region in the previous week, which was lower than the week before. Outbreaks were contained to "minor, small workplaces" rather than long-term care homes.

"We're actually stabilizing a bit in the incidences, although as you know, anything can change at any moment," said Gemmill.

About half of the cases reported recently were in Northumberland County, and about a quarter each in City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County, with the highest group by age those who are younger than 20, which Gemmill said is a "tiny bit worrying," noting that there were fewer cases by outbreak but more by close contact either through work, transportation or gatherings.

"What it means to me is that I think that for some of these cases people weren't as careful as they could or should have been to be able to prevent themselves from becoming infected," he said.

At press time, there were no unresolved cases of COVID-19 being reported in Haliburton County, with nine current high-risk contacts. A second variant of concern reported locally has, like the first case, been moved to another health unit region.

"Upon further assessment, the variant of concern (VOC) identified this week in Haliburton County is being removed from our count and transferred to another

health unit region where the individual resides full-time," said the health unit in response to the Echo asking for further details about it. "It appears the person acquired the infection while living there as well. In Ontario, it is the practice to report all positive COVID-19 cases (and variants) in the region where people's permanent residence is located."

Vaccination clinic appointments based on vaccine supply

"The provincial system is working, it's not without its frustrations and glitches but it is working," said Gemmill.

Gemmill said there appears to be a glitch on the website in which vaccination clinics do not appear, but he said that's part of how the system was designed. Appointments are limited by vaccine supply, and when the available appointments have been booked, the site no longer shows that vaccination clinic in the booking system.

"I guess that's to save people time so they're not looking through and scrolling, and trying to find something only to be disappointed when there's nothing there," said Gemmill, noting those booking appointments will be redirected on the site to the next available clinic.

He said while the province had announced the previous week they would expand the appointments available to younger ages, which had been a plan originally intended to begin the first week of April, the HKPRD health unit is still working on the 80-and-older group and was, as of last week, booking appointments for those 75 and older.

"We don't have the vaccine to be able to accommodate our group completely yet, we're still working through that," said Gemmill. He noted that because there are

other areas with higher number of cases they were getting more vaccines, but said our area shouldn't be "penalized" with less vaccines for having lower case numbers. The health unit is asking for more vaccine and is hoping to expand the number of appointments that are available regionally.

Home care recipients booking

"People in home care are in Phase 1, and they should be done like, now, they're eligible," said Gemmill.

The health unit is asking those who receive home care to call the health unit, which can provide a link to the provincial booking system that allows those who are not yet in the general age group being vaccinated to book their appointments.

Gemmill said the vaccine advisory committee is looking at ways to get the vaccine to those who might be homebound,

perhaps via EMS or a mobile unit, but the vaccine currently available isn't fridge-safe and doesn't travel well.

Four-month delay between shots

"I was a supporter of a longer interval right from the beginning, even when the province's policy was, get everybody their two doses as fast as you can," said Gemmill.

The issue starts, he said, with how the pharmaceutical companies do their studies, noting studies were set up with three weeks and four weeks between shots, thinking that shots would be given as quickly as possible.

"We do know, from our experience with other vaccines, is that giving a vaccine too late is never a problem. We don't lose anything. What you lose is that you

see GEMMILL page 16



Taking out the trash

Youngsters Hartlee and Blakelynn Reynolds spent time cleaning up the boardwalk along Head Lake on March 22. Working in tandem with their parents, the Reynolds collected a full bag load of garbage. "We have been walking the path a lot and we couldn't believe the mess of our poor boardwalk. Cleaning it took no more than 30 minutes and it made a world of difference to our small town," said mom Brooke Reynolds. /Submitted photo

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Looking at locations for charging stations

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The County of Haliburton and its four, lower-tier townships are considering funding applications and locations for electric vehicle charging stations.

County council received a report from climate change co-ordinator Korey McKay during a March 24 meeting. As McKay's report indicated, a federal funding program is making \$130 million available until 2024, covering 50 per cent of costs for charging infrastructure, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per port.

What are known as Level 2 charging stations come with one or two ports, the latter meaning that two vehicles can be charged simultaneously.

"Dual ports are more commonly installed since most costs are the same for single or dual port stations: equipment, installation and maintenance," the report read. "... Charging infrastructure is to be installed in locations that are owned by the county or local municipalities to be eligible for funding. Ideal locations include those that can be used to charge corporate vehicles, employee vehicles and/or those that can be used for the community and tourists while using recreation facilities, or visiting local retail, restaurant and entertainment spots."

Six suggested locations included the Minden Hills arena; the Minden Hills township office; the Dysart et al branch of the Haliburton County Public Library; the Dysart municipal office/arena; the stretch of North Shore Road containing the Algonquin Highlands township office and other facilities; and Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. The report suggested two ports per location save the Minden Hills township office, where four ports were recommended. Since the Minden Hills and County of Haliburton office properties are abutting, it was suggested this project would be a partnership between the two.

As for the funding framework, the report contained two options. One option entails using The Ivy Network, jointly owned by Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation. Under that option there would be no upfront costs for municipalities, but an average annual servicing fee of \$3,300 for each two-port station. The report indicated service would range between \$2,400 and \$4,000, depending on the location of the charging stations.

The cost of electricity would come in addition to this, at approximately \$1 to \$2.50 per hour. This cost is typically recouped from the public via user fees. Installation would take place in summer or fall of this year.

A second option would entail the municipalities themselves owning the charging stations. Dual-port Level 2 charging stations cost between \$15,000 and \$25,000, with up to \$10,000 of this expenditure recoverable through the funding program. Ongoing service costs would be between \$500 and \$1,800 per unit per year, with the cost of electricity covered through user fees. Installation would take place between September of 2021 and September of 2023.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen questioned the suggestion that the charging stations at the Minden Hills office be a partnership between the township and the county.

"The county itself might consider an alternate location for their own purposes," Danielsen said.

"The rationale behind that was the county has already purchased one plug-in vehicle, and may be making a recommendation shortly for another," said county planner and deputy chief administrative officer Charley White. "So, if we were to park here, we would automatically be taking two of those [ports] during the day, and then not on the weekend."

If Minden Hills begins converting its fleet to electric vehicles, it would then have two portals available to it, White said.

"So we thought two [stations] side-by-side and reduce the cost of the electrical hookup," she said, adding the stations could then be used by the public after work hours and on weekends.

"This metamorphosis ... it's going to happen in the next couple of years faster than most people are foreseeing," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin of the transition to electric vehicles. Devolin wondered if the county and municipalities could take advantage of both funding options.

"I'm just thinking in Minden Hills, I'm thinking of some other properties that would geographically dot them across the region," he said. "So, I guess I'm greedy in this. I think the need's coming that we're going to need a lot more than this."

McKay said the county had placeholders for both funding program options for the time being, nine and seven, respectively.

"One station has two ports on each, so that's a lot of places to plug in," she said. "And I did get comments that even the amount we're suggesting is a lot for a rural area, but I do agree it's coming, and it's coming fast, but we do have both amounts reserved, so, technically, yes."

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said in her township, there have been discussions about multiple locations where charging stations could potentially be installed.

"We have talked about putting one in the North Shore strip, because we would also like to move toward electric vehicles and be able to charge up for staff vehicles," Moffatt said. "But we also have the airport and we have Dorset, the village of Dorset is a very, very busy place. So we also have a number of opportunities and locations we'd like to look at."

Moffatt said Algonquin Highlands would be using modernization funding from the province for the purchase of charging stations.

"Is this a one-off, to get it off the ground, or will this be an ongoing collaboration through the county?" she asked.

McKay said there would be more rounds of funding applications before the current program ends in 2024. "So this is not a one shot, but it's a great opportunity to take advantage of while it's right here and reserved for us," she said.

White suggested municipalities each selecting a location, running a station for a year to see what the real costs are, and then going from there.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts said charging stations have been discussed by her lower-tier council, and wondered about issues of time limits, and whether or not a fee should be imposed or stations should be free to the public.

Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said he knew of communities where as an incentive, businesses hand out vouchers for charging stations to customers.

Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said she thought there should be a user fee to at least cover the cost of electricity. "When you're charging, for example, at the community centre in Minden, somebody has to pay for that, and I don't think that should necessarily go across the whole tax base, when it could be a fee-for-use service," Schell said.

It was ultimately decided that the issue would be taken to each of the lower-tier council tables for discussion.



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HE council welcomes Bell plans for communication tower

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The following are Highlands news briefs from the March 23 council meeting.

A Bell Canada telecommunications tower proposal is bringing hope for greater connectivity to Wilberforce and surrounding areas.

From its coverage objectives, the report claims this “will vastly improve network capacity and coverage on the mobile LTE network, and provide much needed wireless home internet services in this community by bringing Wireless to the Home (“WTH”) services for those that can access the signal. Coverage for the community will be rated as excellent if the proposed tower is installed.”

The proposal includes a 100-metre “guyed telecommunications tower” on private property abutting Clark Hill Road, which is on lands designated “Rural” in the official plan. It’s pointed out that “radio installations are federally regulated and do not need to adhere to local zoning bylaw regulations.” The proposed site is located at the top of the hill between Clark Hill Road and Loop Road in the Wilberforce town centre.

This site was chosen over several other potential sites in areas outside of town because of “radio frequency signal propagation issues due to topographical constraints in the area, significant road and utility access location concerns with the network, and the need to be closer to users to maximize coverage and capacity for the community.”

Bell said they recognized the community is under serviced in terms of network infrastructure and that the current

Wilberforce proposed site is ideally situated as far as line of sight related to the topography of the area to enable reach to surrounding areas. The reduction of the tower’s height by a few metres will bring “significantly diminished services to surrounding areas.”

Highlands East CAO and treasurer Shannon Hunter hopes this is just the start of things to come.

“Hopefully this is just the first step to meeting many of our challenges in this area and I think we’ll see multiple towers soon coming our way,” she said.

Mayor Dave Burton raised concern about a potential conflict with the site of the tower and a pre-existing snowmobile trail. Hunter said she will communicate with Bell about this and report back to council about it. Counc. Cam McKenzie acknowledged if there is a conflict that he is confident a resolution can be reached.

Property owners within a radius of 300 metres of the tower site will receive a notification package with the tower proposal information and invitation to comment, as prescribed by the federal ministry ISED (formerly Industry Canada). There will be a 30-day public consultation period during which the public can comment and ask questions by mail, fax, and email. There is a planned effort for public outreach, which includes advertisements in local papers and direct contact to residents by mail.

Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall clarified this Bell initiative is not to be confused for the recent announcement involving Rogers and that having two communication companies working towards improving connectivity is good news.

“I mean we’re definitely being considered ... this is awesome news. Especially with the challenges we’ve had with

COVID so I wish all the success for everyone in making all this happen. We certainly need broadband,” he said.

Cardiff pool change room work on hold until after season

The work at the Cardiff Pool is being delayed because of additional work related to its slab and current lack of a foundation.

“These were substantial changes and after reviewing it was really felt it was beyond the scope of our original tender so we went back to the contractor and through discussion it was agreed that this was beyond the regular scope,” Shannon

Hunter said.

Budgeted for \$130,788 in the 2021 budget, the original tender went to Royalty General Construction Ltd. Council will re-tender the work at a future date and operate the pool.

She added the change rooms will be used this season as they are.

“What the current plan is to have drawings prepared and a material list prepared and go out for tender again as soon as those two things are done and we may be in the position to do those change rooms after the current season, but we are still planning on doing the project it just won’t be done before this season,” she said.



A walk in the park

The unseasonably warm temperatures last week had people out, walking and sitting in Head Lake Park on Tuesday, March 23 in Haliburton./DARREN LUM Staff

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- Hardwood, Valley/Forest Views, Stream



SOLD

Sugar Island Gull Lake

- 125 ft sand shoreline
- 2 bedroom, 615sq.ft.
- 1 bdrm Bunkie,
- Newer septic, upgraded elec



Highway 35 \$999,000

- Great commercial lot right on highway 35
- Close to new business developments
- Fantastic business opportunity



NEW LISTING

Beech River \$699,000

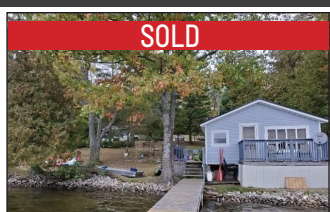
- Riverfront home in a lovely setting
- Nicely updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath
- Two finished levels of living space
- Good swimming, boat into Beech Lake



SOLD

Mink Rd. \$109,900

- Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy
- Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake
- Year-round Municipal Road access
- Minutes to Haliburton Village



SOLD

Green Lake \$529,000

- 125 ft sand shoreline
- 2 bedroom, 615sq.ft.
- 1 bdrm Bunkie,
- Newer septic, upgraded elec



NEW LISTING

Soyers Lake \$1,750,000

- Breathtaking home on premier 5-lake chain
- 2500+ SQ FT, open concept, 4 beds, 4 bath
- 285 FT of sand shoreline, deep off the dock
- Amazing lakeside screened in sitting room



Haliburton Multi-Rental \$395,000

- 2x2 bedrooms, 1x1 bedroom
- Hydro metered separately, parking
- Coin laundry, drilled well, muni sewer



NEW PRICE

Haliburton Lake \$199,000

- 152 ft natural sand shoreline
- Nicely treed, gentle slope to lake
- Close to ski hill, golf, shopping



NEW PRICE

Minden Lake \$799,000

- 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1460 sf
- 2004 build & completely updated
- 165 ft waterfront, 0.89 acres
- West exposure, sand beach



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Loop Road \$220,000

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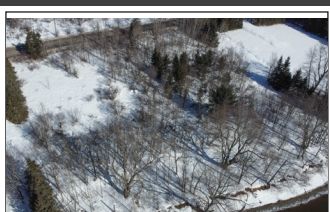
- Non-waterfront up 110%*, Waterfront up 79%*
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Kennis Lake \$1,699,000

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- Premium Lake boating on Kennis



Gull River, Deep Bay Rd \$199,000

- 145' frontage, 0.8 acres
- Year Round Municipal Road
- Southern Exposure
- Boat into Gull Lake or Minden



NEW LISTING

Little Cameron Lake \$925,000

- Spectacular views from 14' wall of windows
- 182' waterfront
- Full walkout basement



Barry Line Rd \$149,900

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- Includes insulated garage, drilled well
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Demand for local affordable housing options 'only going up'

from page 1

merits of the proposal, Martin said. The need here in Haliburton County for affordable housing is well documented.

Rather, there was a tremendous amount of competition for the funds. There were a total of 679 applications, totalling more than \$4 billion, made under the RHI program. Under this first round, the govern-

ment approved 179 of those proposals.

"We knew we were swimming against the current, we knew the odds weren't very good. But we also knew that if we didn't play, then we couldn't win," Martin said. "The fact we've lost on this occasion is not a bad thing, I don't think. It's sad, but not bad. We learned a lot. We're on CMHC's radar in a way that we weren't before."

That last point is of particular importance, Martin noted. While funded by the federal government, the successful proposals were selected by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In a letter distributed to P4P, Nadia Venafo, a senior advisor with CMHC, indicated a second round of funding could be forthcoming in the near future.

It was noted that the Places for People application would be kept on file and could be reconsidered should additional money become available.

There is no guarantee, however, that P4P will be able to move ahead with its proposal should they receive the green light several months from now. The project depended upon being able to purchase the Lakeview Motel from owners Holly and John McDonald. While, Martin said, the organization was able to negotiate for an exclusivity clause to be included in the initial offer for the property, that clause expired this month, meaning other potential buyers now have the opportunity to swoop in.

An offer for the property does remain on the table though, says Jody Curry, president of P4P. After learning their project would not be funded by the government, the local non-profit's senior administration tried to look for other ways to move ahead. They would have been able to secure around \$2 million - \$700,000 shy of the amount they'd need.

"If a philanthropist wanted to put up \$700,000 to help us fund this project, in exchange for a tax receipt of course, we could make it work," Martin said. "If this money were to come out of the woods, we could rock and roll."

The appeal behind this particular proposal, to take over Lakeview Motel, was twofold - the building is already in place and is in "fantastic" condition, according to Curry, and there was additional land on the site that could potentially house other P4P developments.

"The big thing about this is that it

wasn't a new development. It was renovating what is already there," Curry said. "To make it sound very simple, it would have basically been putting kitchens into each unit. It would have been a fast project, which was the entire purpose of this RHI money - to invest in housing that could happen and be brought forward quickly."

When looking at statistics, Martin says the kind of housing this project would have delivered - being largely one bedroom, bachelor-style units - are what is desired most and in the least supply here in Haliburton County.

Using data from the 2016 census, 76 per cent of the county's population is made up of one and two person households. Yet, only 31 per cent of the housing stock in the area are one or two bedroom properties.

"This kind of housing would fill a niche in this area that we don't otherwise have. For the smaller, bachelor units, we have very little that is affordable. This would have sat nicely in our community, and could have provided pretty immediate housing for 16, maybe 20 individuals. Now there's no plan in place for these people," Martin said.

And the demand for affordable housing is only going up, Curry stated. P4P is continuously receiving emails from individuals in need, something that has been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19. The increase in property prices and rental costs combined with an influx of permanent residents to the area has left a lot of people in a difficult position.

P4P expects to offset some of that through a new development its working on, alongside Dysart et al township, on Wallings Road. That longer-term project will eventually bring 60 brand new units to the community. Curry expects to be able to break ground on that project in 2022.

In the meantime, the team will continue to advocate for projects such as the one at Lakeview Motel.

"People need places to live. That's why these kind of proposals are so important. Martin said. "I think that's what I'm most disappointed about right now. With RHI, I thought the penny had dropped, yet the government came up short. The fact they had so many applications under incredibly difficult circumstances shows the government grossly underestimates the need for housing."

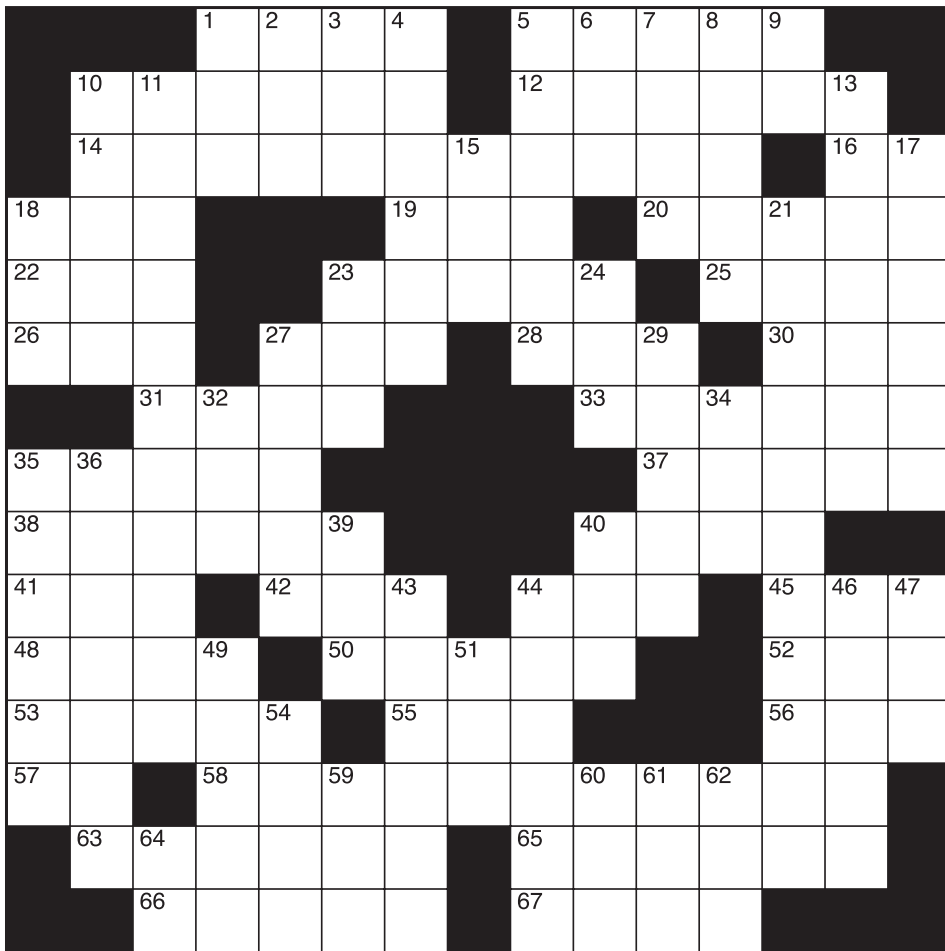
Crossword brought to you by

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CLUES ACROSS


1. Large, flightless birds
5. Lifts and moves heavy objects
10. Hyundai sedan
12. Wear away by erosion
14. Arranged alphabetically
16. Top prosecutor
18. ___-de-sac: Short dead-end street
19. Digital audiotape
20. Linguistics pioneer
22. Singer DiFranco
23. Arms of the sea
25. Near-reach weapon (abbr.)
26. Ballplayer's accessory
27. You get one at the beach
28. U.S. founding father
30. W. Australia indigenous people
31. Amounts of time
33. Put on the shelf
35. Russian dynasty member
37. City along the Elbe River
38. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf
40. Actor Damon
41. ___ King Cole, musician

CLUES DOWN

1. Midway between northeast and east
2. Partner to cheese
3. One from Utah
4. A way to move
5. Playing cards
6. Baseball stat
7. Long river in western Asia
8. Grandmothers
9. Entertainment legend Sullivan
10. Steam bath room
11. One who kills
13. Food
15. Swiss river

17. Fleet
18. Taxi
21. Working class
23. More (Spanish)
24. High schoolers' test
27. Large heavily built goat antelope
29. Murdered in his bathtub
32. Tease good-naturedly
34. Morsel
35. Cause persistent resentment
36. A radioactive element
39. Perform in a play
40. Witty remark: Bon ___
43. A great place to kayak
44. Conclude by reasoning
46. In an unfavorable way
47. Complex of nerve tissues (abbr.)
49. Machine for making paper
51. Feline
54. Yugo's hatchback
59. Check
60. Press against lightly
61. Wind-pollinated plants
62. ___compoop
64. Commercial

Answers on page 16



1st Annual Haliburton County Stations of the Cross Tour

Friday, March 26 to Sunday, April 4, 2021

The churches of Haliburton invite you to a COVID-safe tour of our beautiful region, while taking time to reflect and prepare our hearts for this season of Lent and Easter.

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From March 26 to Easter Sunday, April 4, outdoor installations of local art, representing the story of Jesus' Journey to the cross will be open for you to visit at various sites in and near Haliburton village.

May you be blessed as you take the Tour which serves as a beautiful intersection of faith and art.

For a tour guide, map and more information visit:
www.mylakeside.ca/SOChaliburton

The Highlands' 'liquid gold' fuels a passion for harvesting

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

There's a certain romantic quality to the experience behind the traditional way of maple syrup production.

It includes tromping through the woods with snowshoes, hanging the buckets and inserting the spiles in trees, then repeat the walk to return to collect the litres of sap from each, pouring into pans and boiling it with the wood you cut from the trees on the property to fuel the fire needed to boil, eventually reducing the sap down to prepare before filtering into maple syrup.

Canada is known throughout the world for its maple syrup (it's a multi-million dollar industry) and although the bulk of it all comes from Quebec, there are operations of all sizes with differing methods here in the Highlands.

While some will employ contemporary methods with lines, or reverse osmosis machines to separate pure water from the raw sap, there are others that use old fashioned methods of collecting sap with buckets from tapped trees and use the naked eye for qualities consistent with the desired viscosity.

Haliburton retired resident Andy Salvatori said he started close to 25 years ago because his 40-acre property has a lot of maple trees and he wanted to do something with his young children.

"It was always fun for them. It gets them outside and enjoying nature," he said. "They hated collecting. They liked eating it. Didn't like making it."

Although his children are all grown now, he continues to harvest sap to make syrup.

"I don't know. It's a thing that happens every March. Take the stuff out of the barn. Because we eat a lot of it. That's why we do it. We eat a lot of it. We pretty well eat it every day," he said.

It goes into a range of things from salad dressing, oatmeal, yogurt to baking and cooking.

He said he loves the taste and will even eat it out of a bowl with a spoon.

"I probably shouldn't do too much of that. I like dipping bread in it when it has butter on it. Probably worst thing you can do. High in sugar and high in fat."

From his perspective, the understanding is that there is a litre of syrup per tree, he said.

He admits he doesn't have the most efficient of maple syrup enterprises, but it works for him and his small operation, which includes storing sap in barrels that can be susceptible to freezing, if he isn't cognizant of the temperature, 40 taps and buckets for collecting and an unsheltered area where the boiling takes place.

This operation produces more than enough for his family and friends. He said



Haliburton resident Andy Salvatori enjoys being outside, as part of the experience of maple syrup production. He admits his setup is fairly simple, but it's all he needs to make enough for himself, family and friends. With 25 years of experience, his advice to beginners is to start small and go see someone else to do it./ DARREN LUM Staff

he could skip a year and still have enough left over.

For producers like Salvatori or for significant producers exponentially larger than him, the convention of understanding among maple syrup producers is that for every litre of syrup it takes close to 40 litres of sap to produce.

The key thing to pay attention to is the weather forecasts, he said.

"Like last week it got really cold at night so if you collected sap and put it in a bucket outside it would have froze solid. That's the danger when you start early," he said.

The ideal conditions for sap to run are cold nights (below 0 Celsius) and warm above zero days.

Although he didn't do this, his advice to beginners is to go see someone else doing it and learn from them. Otherwise start small. He recommends boiling outside rather than inside to avoid the challenges that come with boiling a high sugar content liquid. Since he doesn't produce to sell, he picks and chooses when he goes out, selecting the most hospitable weather.

Salvatori really appreciates how the maple syrup production marks the transition of the season.

"It's good to start and it's good to finish. Because you know when you're finished spring's here, right? Snow is all gone and the leaves are going to be out soon," he said.

Down the road, Walkers Haliburton Home Hardware co-owner Dale Walker said sales for maple syrup production products is up because of more producers, but wasn't sure on specifics.

She said one of their most popular maple syrup production items right now is their beginner kit, which includes five spiles, five two gallon buckets and lids. The store also sells lines, paper filters, and white buckets, which are the most popular of all their offerings, she said.

Walker said they have sold out of some products, but that was because of a combination of factors from demand, delivery and supply chain.

This growth hasn't changed their ordering practices, but it's still early for the maple syrup season here, she said.

Maple syrup production products started to be sold at the store when it was bought by the Walkers a few years ago.

The store starting putting these products on the shelves around three weeks ago this year and they account for only around two per cent of their inventory during the year.

In West Guilford maple syrup producer Mervin Steckle said last week the sap had stopped running, indicating to him this won't be a record season. However, he remains optimistic.

The self-employed 64-year-old with a family history in farming said he's been making syrup for close to seven years, ever since he moved to the area with his wife. It made sense to make maple syrup because there were a lot of maple trees on the property and it was done by the last owner.

"We just decided we'd like to try something I've never done on my own before and ... it would be a fun thing to do and we tapped a few trees. Every year we just been tapping a few more," he said.

He started with 50 and is now up to 150 pails in an area less than two acres of densely populated forest. He laughs and said he doesn't expect to expand due to "old age" and how he doesn't want it to become a job.

"I still enjoy getting out in the bush and in the spring it's a nice thing to do. If I was 20 years younger, I would consider getting into it a little bigger. Not at this point," he said.

He may not have all of the high tech equipment because of cost, but he makes it work.

Among the techniques includes see-

ing how the syrup drips off a ladle when raised. He repurposed an old tank into a stove where he boils his sap in stainless steel pans. He started with two and recently added another. He uses a thermometer to evaluate the temperature and takes taste samples to evaluate its quality.

"For the scale we're operating it's really not viable to get too fancy. That's another reason I don't want to expand too much because then you have to get into bigger evaporators and what not and then you end up with a huge investment, then you're working to pay that back. The way we're doing it right now, yeah, we spend a little bit in buckets and what not, [but] it's not a huge expense and we're having fun with it," he said.

Last year he said the 90 litres of syrup produced was triple compared to the first year.

He started tapping on March 9 and moved on to boiling by March 18.

"It's going to be a different season this year. We've had a couple good runs, but now it's warmed up so quickly right now the trees have quit running again. I'm hoping we get some cooler weather and some frost at night to bring it on again, but I don't think we're going to have a record crop this year from the looks of it. It's a little bit early to tell yet," he said.

In a conversation with a friend from southwestern Ontario, Steckle was told they were finished their season and only managed half of their typical yield.

The syrup production isn't just by his own hands, as a few neighbours have helped, including his wife, Angie. Some of the challenges, besides the unpredictability of the weather, includes the deep snow that can be upwards of three feet deep, which makes hanging the buckets and collecting difficult.

He enjoys his syrup in his tea in lieu of sugar while his wife will use to baste roasts.

His advice to new syrup producers is to start small, experiment and to have fun with it.

"It's one of those things you kind of have to learn as you go and you have to do it, really, to gain experience," he said.

He said typically the season is about two weeks later than what happens for producers in the south, who he knows are done already. Sometimes the season here, he said, will last into the second week of April. At this point in the season, Steckle said he is at about a third of what he has typically collected.

With cooler temperatures coming, he believes there is potential to make up for the period of warm weather that stopped the sap from running.

"I think the potential is still there for a decent season. Not every year is going to be a record breaker, but it's always nice when you go to the effort of setting up to have something for your effort anyway," he said.



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Gemmill recommends golf, says social bubbles can gather outdoors

from page 8

don't get the full protection for awhile but you do get some protection."

A second vaccine given too soon however, won't be effective and is a wasted dose, he said.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) stated that the vaccine interval should be respected as much as possible based on the data they had, Gemmill said, and then they came to the conclusion based on more data that the booster shot delay could be extended.

"When this new guidance came from [NACI], Ontario took a look at it and said, 'hmm, a couple of advantages here.' If we can get one dose into everybody, that means that everyone is treated as fairly as possible, still going through the priority lists. Everybody will have the chance to get one dose before we start immunizing peo-

ple with two doses. 'Why's that guy get two doses when I've never had a dose?' I think that's what they were [doing], not trying to create that kind of problem. It's an issue of fairness to some degree. The other thing is, and I think this is very smart, if you can get one dose into the entire population, you're going to have better control of this virus, the virus can't circulate as well than if you have two doses in half the population."

Population protection won't be complete until everyone has had two doses, Gemmill said. He said some vaccines, like the HPV vaccine, are more effective if given with more time in between doses.

"The danger is, what happens in that period between dose one and dose two, which is the full protection," he said. "And that's why I keep saying to people, you still have to be cautious, you still have to use your personal measures, and we'll give you new guidance once the whole population has received their second dose."

To solidify new guidance after vaccination, Gemmill said evidence of protection is needed.

people who are playing hockey, and I've seen too many outbreaks that involve hockey teams, and this is why I'm bringing it up as an example. I've seen it on many occasions. I know how popular hockey is, but the question is, is it still reasonable to be doing hockey during a pandemic. People are exercising very hard, they're skating very fast, therefore they [have] fast heart rates, fast respiratory rates, and if you're getting into the boards going after that puck, you can have very, very close contact. I would be advising against that."

A sport that worked well last year, Gemmill said, was golf, given that people could be outside, distance from others or play alone.

Social bubbles can still be in effect

Gemmill was asked by media about social bubbles, and if that practice should still continue.

"That was an approach to try to keep the virus under control last summer," said Gemmill.

"I guess my advice is, I've been saying, don't gather, don't gather, and what that really means is don't gather in indoor settings, but if we can do what we did last summer by having some time, maybe on a deck with people sitting distanced from each other, that is a way to have the social interaction we want without really putting ourselves at risk. People can add masks to that if they'd like to as well."

He said it's reasonable to socialize outside, keeping distance from each other.

"People still can create bubbles if they want to, and the way it works is, it's really an agreement amongst a number who say I'm undertaking not to do these various things, not to go to a noisy bar, or not to be planning a sport that I know may be risky for coronavirus. And if those people can agree, sure, you can form your own bubbles." He said he hadn't seen any recent guidelines about how big those bubbles can be, but suggested people use "common sense" and discuss what risks they are willing to tolerate and the precautions they will take.

Booking a vaccination appointment

The health unit asks that people do not try to book a vaccination appointment through the provincial booking system if they were not born in 1946 or earlier, and do not call the health unit to book appointments. The provincial booking system is available at <http://www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or 1-888-999-6488. For more information, the health unit website is available at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

NOTICE (Applicant -LITT)

IN THE MATTER OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST TO CLOSE, STOP-UP AND CONVEY CERTAIN PORTIONS OF A ROAD ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD ALONG THE SHORE OF MINNIECOCK LAKE, MORE PARTICULARLY HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, the 13th of April, 2021**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 32, Concession 15, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, made by **Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd.**, dated **June 19, 2020**, shown as Part 1 on Plan 19R-10444.

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or email the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

DATED at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 23rd day of March, 2021.

ROBYN ROGERS, MUNICIPAL CLERK
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
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705-448-2981
rrogers@highlandseast.ca

Local pharmacies not yet carrying vaccine

The AstraZeneca vaccine, which is fridge-stable and is available in about 300 pharmacies in other regions in Ontario is not yet available at pharmacies locally. It might be rolled out to more pharmacies if the pilot project is successful.

"Are any of them going to be in HKPR? I hope so, but have not been told so," said Gemmill. "If it doesn't happen in the first go-round, I'm certain that when the second expansion occurs ... it just gives additional options, additional accessibility choices for people."

Gemmill said he presumed the province would adjust its distribution schedule for the vaccine as they received more of it. He welcomed the opportunity for vaccines to be available at pharmacies as well.

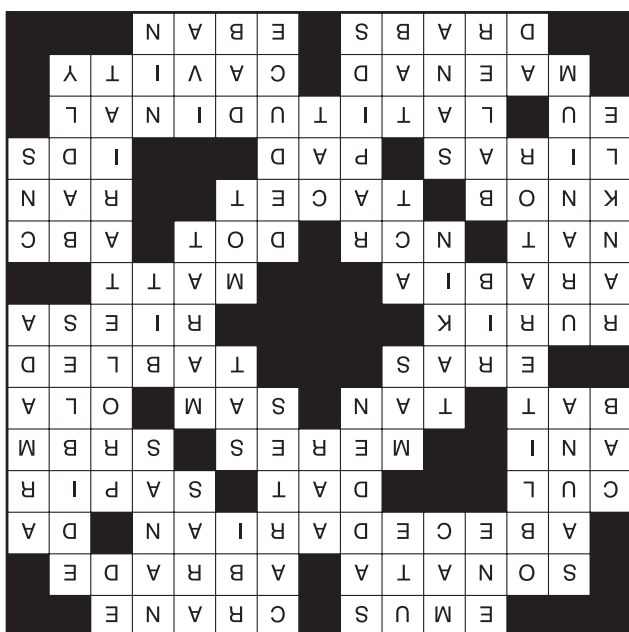
Recommendations for parents signing kids up in organized sports

As summer and more opportunity for organized sports approaches, Gemmill was asked if there might be a sport he would recommend over another, based on risks.

"Go for the sports where you're not having that close interpersonal contact with high energy output that then spews droplets and virus to the people you may be in contact with," said Gemmill.

He gave two different examples to clarify his point. "The winter sport is hockey," said Gemmill. "Now

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HCSA sees bump in memberships this year

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Participation in outdoor recreational activities was way up this winter with the pandemic and snowmobiling in Haliburton County following that trend, as indicated by the numbers from the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA).

John Enright, HCSA vice president said membership was “up significantly” over the past 10 years and that memberships were up 25 per cent compared to last year with the sale of 2,616 paid memberships.

“We have been [on] either side of about 2,300 members for the past decade. Back in the 90s we were over 3,200 members but it was different back then – fewer clubs and the types of memberships sold were different,” he wrote in an email. “Comparing today’s numbers to the [3,200] we had some 30 years ago is an apples to oranges comparison.”

Enright said the rise in popularity is owed to the public looking for things to do while remaining close to home.

“The biggest reason we grew is people wanted something to do. Nobody went to Cancun or Miami Beach this past winter. They were at home, so they took up snowmobiling. That’s probably the biggest growth factor,” he said in an interview with the *Echo*.

Enright expects membership for the club’s upcoming 50th year to be strong again, but isn’t certain it will be sustainable, believing people will sell their snowmobiles when international travel becomes popular again. At this time, there aren’t any plans for an anniversary event because of the uncertainty of the times.

The HCSA season recently ended earlier in March with the sustained warm spell experienced by the area, but the season was “slightly longer than average.”

This year’s winter conditions proved favourable for the 370 kilometres of trails.

Like the Nordic skiers in the Highlands, the snowmobilers were provided a year of continuous trail use.

“Winter was very, very kind to us,” he said. “We didn’t have a January thaw. We didn’t have a January thaw until March so the snow held longer. We [were] late bloomers. It came late, but when it hit it stuck.”

Back in September, the OFSC (Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs) announced its annual volunteer award winners and reposted about it on social media a few days ago. Enright was named among the 15 recipients, one for each of the 15 OFSC districts with a 2020 Outstanding OFSC Volunteer of the Year award. The award recognizes “exceptional achievement in one or more of the following areas: participation development, rider experience, volunteerism and/or partnership development.”

Enright said he was “beyond humbled” with winning his first ever volunteer award, but quickly deflected any praise from his accolade to the efforts of the 30 volunteers and countless members, who help in a variety of



HCSA Top B trail. /KAREN LONDON Staff

ways from picking up litter or clearing trails of branches, which he calls “unsolicited helpers.”

Any and all success related to the club is dependent on everyone contributing.

“It’s the old thing that if everybody does a little no one does a lot,” he said.

The HCSA member for seven non-continuous years said he is proud of his efforts related with the trail guide, and using social media and marketing to engage more people.

There has been marked improvement for the club’s profile since he started working in the area five years ago. When he started the club had 1,500 Facebook fol-

lowers and now it has close to 5,200. Community awareness about the club has grown through advertisements and working with local media, whether it was as a regular presence on the radio the past two winters, or in stories published in the newspapers.

With the OFSC Landowner Appreciation Week held this past week from March 22 to 28, Enright credited the many landowners for enabling the existence of the HCSA network of trails.

“We would not exist. There would be no trails and they’re so decent and generous to allow us on their property. Thank you. That’s what we say,” he said.

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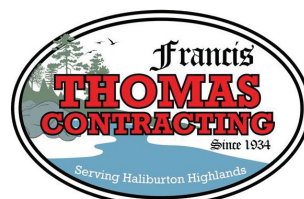
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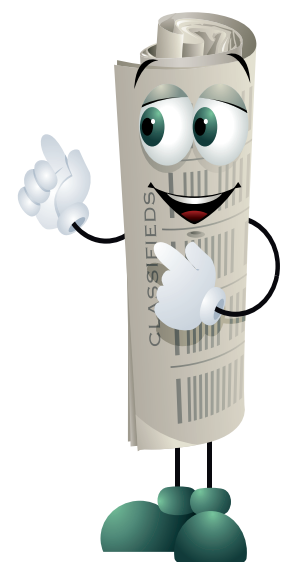
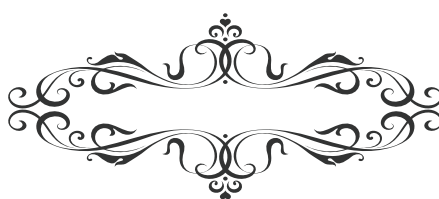
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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

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'Voice of the Highlands'

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Training centre gears up for April 4 start-up date

by MARTIN BIEFER
Echo Editor

When all is complete, there will be a hotel room, a lounge, a kitchen and a mobile bar -- all right on the main street of Haliburton village.

It's not a new nightspot, but it's close. The Haliburton Highlands Hospitality Training Centre, with its \$160,000 in federal funding, began the job of setting up its facilities in new office space above the Red and White store in Haliburton village last week, with an eye to opening for business April 4.

To improve self-sufficiency

According to Dennis Casey, the transition administrator of the centre, the aim of the program is to "make the individual self-sufficient...and turn them into full time employees" in the hospitality industry. That industry, adds Casey, is experiencing phenomenal growth --

not only in the county, but in Ontario.

Since the program is aimed at people who are currently unemployed, the thinking behind it is obviously to get them "to fill jobs" in the sector, he added. He stressed that he didn't think graduating students would "replace" local hospitality staff, because of the growth in the industry.

Those completing the course can look outside the area for jobs, to Peterborough, Barrie and other centres...since they will be equipped with "the job skills" they have learned, he said.

As well, there will be seminars offered to those already employed in the industry, he said.

Interest great

As mentioned, there's a mock kitchen, mock lounge and mock hotel suite, where students will be taught how to set up and wait on tables, how to tend bar, and

how to set up rooms. There is as well much time devoted to the teaching of "life skills," he explained.

So far, 60 people have expressed interest in taking part in the first course. That will begin in April, and graduates will hopefully be prepared by 14 weeks to work, said Casey. Only ten students will take part in the first course.

After appearing on a CBC radio talk show, Casey had received, within hours, half a dozen more calls -- some from as far away as Kingston and Peterborough -- from people interested in the pilot project.

The course will also stress the importance of the hospitality industry to students -- an industry, that through the growth of tourism, is expected to be a leading one in Ontario by the turn of the century.

"We'll be discussing the im-

portance of tourism both locally and provincially," said Casey. "There seems to be a problem among (those in the field), who say 'I'm just a waitress,' and feel they have a second-class job that they'll hold until something better comes along," he added.

For that reason, applicants who "are sincere in (wanting) to make the hospitality industry their career" will be looked at more favorably, he added.

"In Germany," he noted, "waiters make the same money as professional engineers...it takes two or three years of courses to learn how to be a waiter."

"It is an honorable profession...and a profession that is fast becoming one of the most important in the province," he said.

Two intakes planned

While only one course, beginning in April, is planned for

this year, future years will feature two "intakes", he noted. There will be one offered in January, preparing students for summer jobs, and another in the summer, with the winter months in mind.

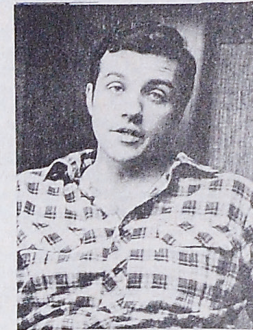
The students can be anyone aged 16 to 24, and females "over 24, returning to the work force, and wanting to learn a trade" are also eligible to take part, he said.

Courses run for 21 weeks, and students draw a salary as they learn. Of the \$160,000 operating budget, \$60,000 will go to students' salaries, he noted.

There will be a full-time administrator and instructors as well, said Casey.

Feather in cap?

The centre, a pilot project, is considered "another selling point" for Haliburton village by Casey. Haliburton village "has an identity problem," said the former tourist resort operator.



Dennis Casey

Most tourists have heard of the Haliburton Highlands, but not of the village, he said. When Casey operated the Sky Slider here, he conducted a poll of visitors. Few knew they were in a village called Haliburton.



The Pajama Game, an ambitious, rollicking musical comedy, will be staged by the students of HHSS this week, beginning Thursday night. From left to right are Brenda Higgins, Cindy Roodenburg, Steve

MacNaull, and Karen Wright. In this scene, MacNaull, as The irascible Hassler, orders his staff around at the pajama factory. Photo by Martin Biefer.

Wilberforce upset by highway 648 repairs

Feel repairs should have begun on west end

The province won't be doing much work on its roads in the county during 1983 -- but it has begun a major upgrading plan for highway 648 in the Wilberforce / Highland Grove area.

The province announced last week that the K J Beamish Construction Company of Thornhill had submitted a low bid of \$562,708 for grading, drainage, installation of a granular base, and hot mix paving on a stretch of the secondary highway from 1.2 km north of Highland Grove south to highway 121. In all some 11.1 km of highway will be upgraded.

The project includes grade revisions, drainage upgrading, treatment of commercial and sideroad entrances, shoulder paving, and widening of pavement on curved sections.

Hopefully, all will be complete on the first phase of the three-year project by mid-summer 1983. Work is scheduled to begin in May.

Monmouth disappointed

Monmouth reeve (and county roads chairman) Keith Tallman said residents of Wilberforce are upset that their stretch of 648 won't be re-paved until 1985 -- but said he was glad the three-year project is

underway. "Once they've committed a third of the work, they are committed to do the rest," noted Tallman. "We'd like them to do the rest as quickly as possible...but it looks like 1985."

About three years ago, relayed the reeve, MTC officials approached area councils "and told us they would do it (the repairs to 648) in three phases." At that time, the stretch of road from the junction of 648 and highway 121 to the cement bridge in Wilberforce wasn't in bad shape -- but any motorist can now see that the road has heaved quite badly.

Monmouth residents wonder "if they are starting at the right end," but Tallman is quick to point out that the MTC says designs haven't been finalized for the Wilberforce to 121 section.

Tallman said the only other provincial road construction scheduled for this year involves "a substantial contract" on highway 507 south of Gooderham.

Highway 648 is a loop highway, that runs from highway 121 to Wilberforce, through Highland Grove, and then back out onto highway 121 farther east, towards Cardiff.

AHM, Lutterworth team up for centre

Anson, Hindon and Minden council is grabbing the bull by the horns and is taking steps towards the establishment of an information centre -- in cooperation with Lutterworth township.

AHM deputy-reeve Ed Pergolas told the Echo Monday that he and councillor Gary Kenney "met with Lutterworth last week...and (AHM) has decided to go ahead (jointly) with an information booth."

Lutterworth council "has expressed their willingness to co-operate fully" in the endeavour, he added. A building provided by AHM will be located on Lutterworth land, near the border of Haliburton and Victoria counties, said the deputy-reeve.

"We'll be grabbing them as they come in," he said with a chuckle.

By locating the booth near the

border, "we won't be infringing on the work of the Chamber... this is really a self-help project" for AHM and Lutterworth, he said.

Staffing for the centre will be provided by students, who will be jointly hired by both municipalities through summer student works programs.

Central to the booth concept is the perceived need for more promotion of AHM and Lutterworth. Pergolas said such things as Minden's water and sewers will be made available to incoming tourists -- as well as full data on what to do and see in both municipalities.

"I think it's a step in the right direction, and will solve a lot of problems," said Pergolas. The booth will be discussed further at this week's AHM council meeting, he added.

Cummins hospitalized

Councillor Larry Cummins of Anson, Hindon and Minden remains in stable condition in Etobicoke General Hospital after suffering a heart attack last week.

Cummins suffered his attack Thursday while airborne. He was returning home after a vacation in Acapulco -- and upon his arrival in Toronto an ambulance rushed him to hospital.

Over the weekend, however, his condition stabilized. Reeve Lyle McKnight said Monday that he was to be transferred to a general floor Tuesday, and "could be released this Friday."

"His wife is down there now," said the reeve, who sent Cummins the best wishes of the entire council for a speedy recovery.

"We've got three or four committees that we've been holding up -- pending his arrival...now we'll just have to see how he's doing. We may have to pick up the slack for a little while," said McKnight.

Cards can be sent to the Etobicoke General Hospital, 101 Humber College Avenue, Rexdale, Ontario, M9V 1R8.

The Echo also extends best wishes to Cummins for a quick recovery -- and our hopes that he's back home soon.

Money still rolling in

Haliburton's Rails' End Gallery is just one of several local groups, associations or municipalities to benefit from federal and provincial grants announced this week.

According to Victoria-Haliburton MPP John Eakins a total of \$6,286 has been approved through the provincial Wintario program for the Haliburton village gallery.

"I'm delighted," said the MPP. The Rails' End "is a wonderful place...and a lot of volunteers have worked very hard to support it." The MPP also applauded a \$37,000 grant that has been awarded to Minden's White Water Reserve, in order to build "a training and competition centre of national and

international calibre" at the Gull River site.

"Both are good projects -- and I'm glad to see them underway," said the MPP.

The Rails' End grant will be used for renovations and additions to the Gallery's lighting system, added the MPP.

Other grants announced

Paul Cosgrove, the minister of state for finance, officially announced the \$15,000 COED program grant the county of Haliburton has received. The grant will be administered through the county.

Four people will be hired -- people whose unemployment insurance benefits have run out -- and

Please turn to Page 3

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